CSS Media Queries in Visual Studio

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When editing .css files we offer some completions for CSS Media queries. The completions we are suggesting are very old and need updating.

Here is the list of completions that we have today
- media
- media-desktop
- media-ipad
- media-ipad-landscape
- media-ipad-portrait
- media-iphone4
- media-iphone4-landscape
- media-iphone4-portrait
- media-iphone5
- media-iphone5-landscape
- media-iphone5-portrait
- media-largescreen
- media-smartphone
- media-smartphone-landscape
- media-smartphone-portrait
- media-windows8-snapmode

Scenarios and User Experience

CSS snippets are used to accelerate writing content in CSS files. The user experience for using snippets will not change with this update. We will just be updating the CSS media query snippets to contain a simpler set of snippets.

Requirements

Goals

- Ensure that all CSS media query snippets are up-to-date
- Reduce the number of CSS media query snippets
- Update the CSS media query snippets to move away from device specific queries to more generic queries. By having device specific queries, the list of popular devices is too long to be usable via snippets. It's also a maintenance nightmare because new devices are coming out very often.
- Remove usage of `device-width` because it has been deprecated, see [this from MDN](#) and [this from w3c](#).

Non-Goals

- None

Design

There are a few problems that we would like to solve by updating the CSS media queries.

- Move away from device specific media queries, and use a smaller set of generic queries instead
  - There are too many devices currently and new devices are released frequently
  - Typically it is advised to stay away from device specific queries, see this blog post
- Instead of having three separate snippets for each completion (base, portrait & landscape), create a single snippet for each and when invoked include base, portrait & landscape.
- Include a comment above media query stating the usage
- Stop using min-device-width/max-device-width and instead use only min-width/max-width. See this blog post.

Proposed snippet list

- media
- media-desktop
- media-phone
- media-tablet

@media
```css
@media only screen and (max-width: 1024px) and (max-height: 768px) {
}
```

@media-desktop
```css
/* typical desktop screen resolution */
@media only screen and (min-width : 1224px) {
}
```

@media-phone
```css
/* typical phone screen resolution */
@media only screen and (max-width : 667px) {
}
/* landscape orientation */
@media only screen and (min-width : 375px) and (max-width : 667px) and (orientation : landscape) {
}
/* portrait orientation */
@media only screen and (min-width : 375px) and (max-width : 667px) and (orientation : portrait) {
}
```

@media-tablet
```css
/* typical tablet screen resolution */
@media only screen and (min-width : 768px) and (max-width : 834px) {
}
/* landscape orientation */
@media only screen and (min-width : 768px) and (max-width : 834px) and (orientation : landscape) {
}
/* portrait orientation */
```

```
@media only screen and (min-width : 768px) and (max-width : 834px) and (orientation :
portrait) {
}
```

Below is the full list of media queries that exist in VS today

Current CSS Media Query Completions

```
/* current css media queries snippets */
/*media*/
@media only screen and (max-width: 1024px) and (max-height: 768px) {
}
/*media-desktop*/
@media only screen and (min-width : 1224px) {
}
/*media-ipad*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 768px) and (max-device-width : 1024px) {
}
/*media-ipad-landscape*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 768px) and (max-device-width : 1024px) and
(orientation : landscape) {
}
/*media-ipad-portrait*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 768px) and (max-device-width : 1024px) and
(orientation : portrait) {
}
/*media-iphone4*/
@media only screen and (-webkit-min-device-pixel-ratio : 1.5), only screen and (min-
device-pixel-ratio : 1.5) {
}
/*media-iphone4-landscape*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 480px) and
(orientation : landscape) {
}
/*media-iphone4-portrait*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 480px) and
(orientation : portrait) {
}
/*media-iphone5*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 568px) {
}
/*media*/
/*@media-iphone5-landscape*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 568px) and
(orientation : landscape) {
}
/*media-iphone5-portrait*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 568px) and
(orientation : portrait) {
}
/*media-largescreen*/
@media only screen and (min-width : 1824px) {
}
/*media-smartphone*/
@media only screen and (min-device-width : 320px) and (max-device-width : 480px) {
}
/*media-smartphone-landscape*/
@media only screen and (min-width : 321px) {
```

```
}
/*media-smartphone-portrait*/
@media only screen and (max-width : 320px) {
}
/*media*/
/*@media-windows8-snapmode*/
@media screen and (max-width:400px) {
    @-ms-viewport {
        width: 320px;
    }
}
```

Resources

- device-width deprecation note in MDN
- device-width deprecation note in w3c
- 7 habits of highly effective media queries
- Media Queries: Width vs. Device Width
- https://material.io/resources/devices/

Q & A

What to do about users who rely on the existing snippets and prefer them?

- When the feature is released, we can blog about the update, and at that time make the existing snippets available for download. Users can just drop the files into their personal snippets folder and things will start working again for those snippets.